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Government
Publications

Land Administration
A Roadmap to Services in Nunavut

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Our Role

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) Land Administration unit administers the Territorial Lands Act which provides for the disposition, use and protection of Crown lands under the authority of the Minister of INAC.

Our Functions...

- Managing and administering surplus land in Nunavut
- Ensuring compliance of the Territory with the Land Use Planning Act
- Issuing land use permits, leases, and licences of occupation to ensure Crown land is used in accordance with the Land Use Planning Act

- Managing and administering surface/sub-surface rights on Crown land in Nunavut
 - Ensuring compliance of the Territorial Lands Act and Regulations
 - Issuing land use permits, leases, quarry permits and licenses of occupation to ensure Crown land is used responsibly
- ## Actions...
- Processing and recording applications to record mineral claims
 - Issuing leases, prospecting permits and prospecting licenses, review and approving assessment reports
 - Cooperating with partners and stakeholders to improve the regulatory process in Nunavut

Areas of Responsibility

Land Administration

Nunavut encompasses two million square kilometres or one-fifth of Canada's land mass. Because a large percentage of the land is under explored, it holds a wealth of opportunity. INAC's Land Administration unit manages surface rights on Crown land in Nunavut to ensure the wise use of land resources through legislation and policies.

Managing Nunavut's vast land resources is a joint effort. We work with the Government of Nunavut, Inuit organizations, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), and other stakeholders and regulators. In issuing and enforcing land tenure instruments, we ensure the necessary terms and conditions are applied in order to protect the environment.

The administration of Crown land for the surface rights is coordinated by the Land Administrator Specialist. The main act regulating Crown land in Nunavut is the Territorial Lands Act. This includes the issuance of land use permits under the Territorial Land Use Regulations, leases and licences of occupation under the Territorial Lands Regulations, and the issuance of quarrying permits under the Territorial Quarrying Regulations. We also deal with the Federal Real Property and Federal Immovables Act.

Mining Recorder's Office

The Mining Recorder's Office reviews, records and administers mineral claims, and issues leases and prospecting permits on Crown land. Our office ensures compliance of the Canada Mining Regulations. We also provide general client services, such as issuing prospector's licences, maps for staking claims, forms, claim tags, etc.

From our website you can view all the areas of mineral tenure. It can be found by clicking on the SIDViewer button found in the land administration section of our website at www.inac.gc.ca/nu. You can also download all the shape files for mineral tenure.

BACKGROUND

Before April 1, 2001, INAC's regional office in the Northwest Territories administered Crown land in Nunavut. Since then, the INAC Nunavut Regional Office has taken over that responsibility. Communication is important in preventing misunderstandings between exploration crews and communities. By working together with stakeholders and Nunavummiut, we ensure sustainable management of land resources in Nunavut.

As part of this process, five institutions of public government (IPGs) were created through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). They have responsibilities related to managing lands and resources in Nunavut:

- Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)
- Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
- Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
- Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal (NSRT)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB)

Each institution has roles and responsibilities throughout the process. For example, before the development of any project, a company may have to get approval from the certain IPGs before any permits and licences can be granted.

For more information, contact:

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If you are interested in acquiring land or mineral tenure on Crown land in Nunavut or for any other mining information, please contact the Mining Recorder's or Land Administrators Office at (867) 975-4275 or visit our office located in Building 918, in Iqaluit.

